

Evening Telegraph

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 1870.

THE ELECTION.

The general results of the elections yesterday are in the highest degree gratifying. The continued ascendancy of the Republican party in the city, State, and nation is assured, and the great commercial, manufacturing, and monetary interests of the country are fortified against a revolutionary and disastrous policy.

In Philadelphia nearly the entire Republican ticket is elected by a large majority. There was, however, an unprecedented amount of scratching, and the numerous evidences of the growing disposition to cut loose from the trammels of party in local affairs furnish a solemn and useful warning against unpopular and disreputable nominations. Thousands of Republicans yesterday "cut" Republican candidates whom they deemed unworthy of their confidence, and their protests afford good ground for the belief that the day is near at hand when no party in our midst will be strong enough to elect weak, unworthy, or disgraceful candidates.

In the Second district, Hon. Charles O'Neill, whom we advised some weeks ago to withdraw, has been defeated; but as his opponent, Mr. Creely, proclaimed himself from the outset a thorough Republican, the general interests of the party will not, we trust, be in any way injured by his election. Mr. O'Neill's defeat affords a striking instance of the folly of setting at defiance such a strong and peculiar feeling of opposition within the ranks of the Republican party as was developed in his district.

We rejoice in the selection of Hon. Leonard Myers in the Third district, and the probable election of Hon. Alfred C. Harmer in the Fifth district, and it is a matter of special gratification that Hon. William D. Kelley has obtained over his irrepressible anti-coolie adversary, General William B. Thomas, even a larger majority than he received two years ago. The people of the Fourth district owed it to their own self-respect to rebuke the ardent demagogism displayed by Thomas in soliciting their votes, and due regard for their important industrial interests irresistibly prompted them to return the Representative who has served them with great zeal, fidelity, and ability; and they have nobly demonstrated at the polls that they recognized the force of both these motives.

The election of William R. Leeds as Sheriff, by a large majority, notwithstanding the popularity of his adversary, is a deserved tribute to his character as a man, his fidelity as an official, and his untiring zeal as a working member of the Republican party.

The probable defeat of James Lynd as the Republican candidate for Judge of the District Court, while Judge Paxson, a candidate on the same ticket, is elected by nearly eight thousand majority, needs no other comment than that this result redounds to the credit of the independent voters of Philadelphia, and furnishes a warning which all future judicial conventions should carefully heed.

The Row offices to be filled this year all fall into the possession of the Republicans. But it was the colored vote alone that has saved some of the candidates, and if nominating conventions wish to secure triumphs hereafter, and to build up the party, instead of tearing it to pieces, they must remember the army of ticket-scratchers is larger than ever, and that public sentiment can no longer be safely defied.

The result of the vote on the site for the public buildings, deciding in favor of Penn Square by an immense majority, is such an emphatic expression of the judgment of disinterested men that it will, we trust, settle this vexed controversy for ever. The laborious and continuous efforts of the friends of Washington Square secured for their side of the question much more available strength at the polls than its inherent merits deserved, but in the face of the fact that in every section of the city a large vote has been polled for Penn Square, and that in the aggregate the preponderance in its favor is overwhelming, all further opposition should be forever abandoned. The good sense and good judgment of the citizens of Philadelphia were strikingly displayed by their verdict in favor of the locality pointed out alike by the interests of the city, the demand of the present, and the requirements of the future, and Councils, Building Commissioners, the Legislature, Washington Square newspapers, and all concerned should accept this verdict as final and conclusive.

THE GROANS OF THE WOUNDED.

We publish below an article from the *Age* of this morning which gives a view of the election yesterday rounding off the picture that is so grateful to Republican eyes. The Democratic organ is irate, and a long succession of defeats has failed to prepare it for receiving tidings of new local and general Republican victories with equanimity. It would be as well, however, if it took some precautions against becoming blind with rage, for it would then be able to avoid such absurdities as the assertion that the Democrats yesterday all voted for principle, and the allegation that the Republicans are the foes of the Union and of a republican form of government. It would also refrain from enlorging the Democracy in one sentence for their courage in combating "overpowering numbers," while it complained of their defeat by fraud in another. It would have hesitated about denouncing the new colored voters for their inability to read the head line of their tickets and their incapacity to "know what they were doing" in one sentence, while it complained in another that "a solid negro vote" was polled for the Republican ticket, and while it could not be oblivious to the standard of literary attainments prevailing among a large portion of its own partisans in this city. It would have seen the inconsistency involved in following up a series of statements to the effect that the members of the Union League were disgusted with the Republican ticket by a charge that they con-

tributed a large sum of money to corrupt voters and election officers. It would have shrunk from charging the Republican party, which repealed taxes at the last session of Congress amounting to sixty or eighty millions of dollars per annum, and which has already liquidated a large portion of the public debt, with increasing debt and taxation, and it would have avoided all political parallels between Philadelphia and New York, knowing their inevitable tendency to draw public attention to the unexampled corruption, extravagance, depravity, and crime which have been developed, encouraged, and sustained by the Democracy in that city. We give the *Age* article complete below, so that our readers may have the full benefit of all its passionate objurgations:—

"Yesterday the Democracy of Philadelphia men the combined radical and negro forces on the field of battle, and were defeated. The fight was hotly contested on both sides. At no period in the record of the Democratic party did that old, historic organization act with more courage and devotion. Unaffected by adverse circumstances, undiminished by overpowering numbers, Democrats marched to the polls and voted for principle. They presented a solid front against the common enemy, alike of the Democrats and the white men, of the Constitution, the Union, and the perpetuity of a republican form of government. At the hour we write we can only touch upon some of the causes which lead to our defeat in this city. In the first place the radicals had all the power and patronage of the Federal Government. Then they used the Registry act in the most infamous manner. All the election officers were appointed by them, and their canvassers struck from the poll lists hundreds of Democrats, who thus lost their votes. Their ranks were also strengthened by the addition of a solid negro vote. In many of the precincts strings of negroes were in line all day voting a ticket which had to be marked in a conspicuous manner, in order that the 'virgin voters' might recognize it. Not one in fifty of the negroes who polled the radical ticket yesterday, could read even the head line of the ticket, or know what they were doing. In addition to these powerful combinations, at a late hour in the contest large sums of money were contributed by respectable members of the Union League, the object of which was to corrupt voters and election officers, and deliberately poison the elective franchise. It is known who contributed this fund, to what extent it was used, and in many cases who pocketed the plunder, and a grave public duty may make it necessary, at an early day, to lay all the facts of this iniquitous business before the community in which the parties implicated reside and claim a respectable position in society. Thus was the victory won by the radicals, and to them belong all the glory and the shame of the unequal contest.

"Philadelphia, with all its great interests, is still in the hands of a party which increased debt and taxation, reimposed the income tax, and injured the interests of business men in a most material degree. The 'ring' and the negroes are to-day supreme. They can nominate whom they please, and with the complicity of white men, elect them. This is a 'dark' but a true picture. We are engaged in a contest with New York for the trade of the Far West, and the radical party, for selfish political purposes, engrates negro stupidity and negro incapacity upon our local system. Instead of having intelligent, trained white men to meet the champions of New York and battle their schemes, the negro will represent Philadelphia, and we will be measured and treated accordingly. These are some of the fruits which the radical victory of yesterday will present to the lips of the white men of our city. But none of the fault lies at the door of the Democratic party. They fought alone for the true interests of white men, the true interests of Philadelphia, and, though defeated, they are not dismayed. They are ready to renew the fight from this hour, and no present discomfiture will prevent them from raising again the old flag which they have so often borne in triumph. Rascality may help the radicals to success to-day, but the hope is still left us that the people will soon see the right path, and tread it boldly and fearlessly to victory."

THE MAYOR'S PROTEST.

The protest which Mayor Fox addressed to United States Marshal Gregory yesterday against his appointment of deputy marshals, and especially against his ordering up a file of marines from the Navy Yard to protect the colored voters in the Fifth ward, is a very weak document, and it contains several statements that the Mayor will certainly regret when the excitement of the occasion which called it forth has died away. We object as much as the Mayor can do to the interference of an armed force of any kind, and especially of United States soldiers, upon election day, except in case of urgent necessity; but Mayor Fox and his policemen are probably the only officials in this city who will say that there was not such a condition of affairs yesterday in the Fifth ward as called for prompt and decided action for the protection of the colored voters in their rights and for the prevention of riot. The colored voters in the Third division of the Fifth ward, with an excess of good nature, a desire to perform their duty as citizens peacefully, and a yielding to the prejudices of the white Democrats, that were in the highest degree creditable to them, consented to form a separate line, and to alternate with the white voters. It is scarcely necessary for us to state, in view of the well-known character of the white men who have hitherto assumed to dictate in political matters in this section of the city, that that agreement was not adhered to by the Democrats. The line of colored voters was not allowed to approach the polls, and such individuals as attempted to deposit their ballots were assaulted and driven away from the window. Our own reporters were witnesses to a multitude of such outrages as these, but we are content to take the following quotations from the local report of the *Age* of this morning as proofs of the entire correctness of our statement and of the existence of a state of affairs that fully warranted Marshal Gregory in adopting the course that he did. The *Age*, of course, looks at the whole occurrence through Democratic spectacles, but although it tries to make the negroes the aggressors, it cannot hide the truth altogether, and its statement of the situation previous to the appearance of the marines, is in the highest degree edifying. It says:—

"It was in the Third division of the Fifth ward, however, that the excitement ran the highest. Here was made a gigantic effort to swell the negro vote to such dimensions as would entirely obliterate the very large Democratic majority which this ward has always returned. To do this the negro repeaters, who have been swarming into the city for the past week, were brought into line, and by the agency of a radical election official, with an insubordinate conscience, many were successful in polling votes. But this radical inspector was speedily tripped up. A negro of doubtful eligibility as a voter presented himself. 'You're no voter,' exclaimed the Democratic inspector. 'Oh, yes I is, sah. Here is de gentleman wat wouches for me,' and the radical inspector appeared before the window, and takes the oath prescribed. 'Do you know this man?' 'Oh, yes, of course I do. You don't suppose I'd swear I didn't?' 'Where does he live?' 'On Fifth, near Lombard.' 'How do you know he lives there?' 'Oh—ah, was't I told so? Ain't that enough?' 'Directly six brasses arms were extended to the inspector, six official hands grabbed hold of him, and in a flash the unscrupulous rascal was rushed from the place to an adjacent office. Thus victory did not prove the frown upon the head of the wicked. From this time the excitement about the polls gradually heightened, amongst both whites and blacks. The latter were in line, and the Democratic voters were compelled to wait an opportunity, when all

not often occur, to exercise the rights of franchise. The negroes were noisy and would not stand, while the indignation of the whites at the entire lack of a fair show at the polls promised serious consequences unless a remedy was applied. At noon, this excitement received another impetus upward, by the arrest of three negro repeaters from Camden, who were pointed out by a Camden official, and removed to the Third District Station House. The condition of affairs was serious. An evil demonstration was quickening, and wanted but little to bring it out into the full bloom of a riot. There was a large force of police, but the streets were crowded; and their presence was a thorn in the side of the newly enfranchised. A note was sent to the Mayor.

A note was addressed to the United States Marshal. The latter apprehended a grave disturbance. He sent to the naval rendezvous a requisition for a company of marines, then donned his hat, and, in company with his Honor the Mayor, and Recorder City, soon appeared at Fifth and Lombard streets. Like as sheep, disconcerted by some impending danger, at once become passive at the appearance of their shepherd, or, perhaps, more properly, as belligerent school-boys in lively preparation for a turn at fistfights become tranquil and even friendly under the stern eye of the instructor, this crowd at Fifth and Lombard streets, riotously inclined, boisterous and demonstrative, on the very verge of battle, was restored to reason and silence by the appearance of the Mayor, the Marshal, and the Recorder.

So soon as the Mayor's back was turned the rioting commenced again, and the marines, who had in the meantime arrived near the scene of strife, cleared the street and took possession of the polls, and under their protection the election proceeded peaceably until the hour of closing. The marines then marched off, and we find their exit from the scene thus recorded by the *Age*:—

At 6 o'clock the polls were declared closed. A deafening yell rent the air, and then succeeded a series of cheers for the candidates, alternated by a series of groans for the marines, amid which was heard the rattle of the drum. The heroic soldiers formed for the retreat. This took some time, as the line had been disturbed and the soldiers scattered, each one having formed the nucleus around which gathered a score of hurly burghs, who could not signal have disarmed him—a possibility whereof the commander, perhaps, had not the slightest thought. At the command of the Major the sixty marines right about, and, with muskets at a shoulder shift, passed down Lombard street, between dense banks of people, who looked at them in derision.

If the Mayor had simply protested against the interference of United States soldiers, and given his understanding of the law in the case, there would be no objection, but when he made such a statement as the following he either knew nothing about a matter that was notorious to thousands of the citizens of Philadelphia, and which was causing the greatest excitement and apprehension, or else he allowed his partisanship and his prejudices against the colored voters to get the better of his habitual disposition for truthfulness. At the conclusion of his letter to Marshal Gregory he says:—

"I beg leave to remind you, sir, that this city is in a state of profound peace, and that its ordinary police force has been found fully adequate to the preservation of the public peace, and I beg leave also to remind you that I have just returned from visiting the place in which you supposed disorder to exist, and only to find that peacefulness, quietness, and good order prevailed there, as was apparent to yourself."

And in a telegram to the Governor he repeats the same ideas in even stronger terms:

"Without any necessity existing for such an action, and without the slightest disturbance existing to afford a pretext for it—the city being perfectly quiet—the United States Marshal Gregory has taken possession of a poll in this city with a force of United States soldiers, and by one of the provisions of the same act it was made my duty to take cognizance of the offense, and see to the enforcement of the law. I was further informed that the deputies that I had appointed had been arrested by your policemen and removed from the vicinity of this precinct, and that your policemen were present at this particular precinct in very large numbers, and were actively engaged in the exclusion of the colored voters."

There are few respectable citizens who desire to see the peace preserved upon election day and the rights of every citizen, white or black, secured, who will not be able to decide as to which was in the right in this matter, the Mayor or the Marshal; and if the Democratic ruffians can be made to understand that colored voters can rely upon the support of United States bayonets in the future in case they are assaulted or intimidated at the polls, more will be done to check the violence of a class of men who have been accustomed to set the laws at defiance than ever has been done since Philadelphia was a city.

THE POLICE.

MAYOR FOX will be a brave man if he attempts to defend or to explain the performances of his policemen yesterday, for nothing so outrageous has occurred in this city for years as the manner in which the men who ought to be the impartial and unpartisan guardians of the peace labored in behalf of a Democratic victory by intimidating colored voters, arresting them without the slightest provocation, dragging them from the polls, and committing other scandalous actions that proved conclusively the fact that the whole police force as at present constituted is a mere machine in the hands of the Democratic managers, and that the authority and official position of the policemen are used unscrupulously to promote Democratic ends. Much of the disturbance in the Fifth ward yesterday, which necessitated the intervention of an armed force, was fomented by the policemen, who distinguished themselves by their ruffianly conduct towards the colored voters especially. Most of these men removed the numbers from their caps for the purpose of preventing identification; but the majority, if not all, of them are well known, and if the Mayor chooses to investigate their conduct, he need have no difficulty in doing so. Those who did not actually participate in deeds of violence labored for the Democratic cause by endeavoring to buy off colored voters with little yellow tickets marked "Good for a drink," and among the principal of this class of operators was Lieutenant Mike Haggerty, of the Third police district. The performances of this officer, as well as of multitudes of other members of the police force, were open and above board, without the slightest attempt at concealment, just as

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if they felt sure that they were safe from any present interference or from being called to account in the future by their superiors. A few days ago we published a secret circular distributed by the Democratic Executive Committee, which demonstrated in the clearest manner that, both before and during the election, the police were to be used for the promotion of partisan interests, and their conduct yesterday proved that they were not only willing to obey every behest of their masters, but that they considered the authority of the Democratic managers as superior to that of the Mayor, even if they did not rely upon that official to give at least a tacit consent to their performances. The moral of the occurrences of yesterday is that it is absolutely necessary for the preservation of the peace, to be removed beyond the reach of partisan influences, and to accomplish this there must be a complete and radical reform of our whole police system. Under any administration it can scarcely be otherwise than that the majority of the policemen will be bitter partisans, who will consider it necessary to work for the party to which they belong, if they hope to retain their positions, and under a Democratic regime a ruffianly element will be introduced that will make the police a terror rather than a protection to honest citizens. We give Mayor Fox the credit of trying with all due sincerity to perform his duty, but in many things he is apparently powerless, and ever since he came into office the police force has been going from bad to worse, until now it is disgrace to the city. We have little or no expectation that the Mayor will take any action for the punishment of the policemen who distinguished themselves by their bad conduct yesterday, for they are under the special protection of men who consider Mr. Fox as little better than their own servant, who is bound to obey their behests; and the only remedy for existing evils is to place the appointment of men on the police force as far as possible out of the reach of party managers and party influences.



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